

## Message Text

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ACTION AID-31

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 OES-07 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 SP-02 /102 W  
-----019514 171529Z /43

R 141201Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5886  
INFO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS KIGALI 0393

NAIROBI ALSO FOR REDSO/EA; ALSO FOR AID/W

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID SPOP RW  
SUBJECT: POPULATION POLICY NOTES

REF: A. KIGALI 112 (NOTAL; B. 77 KIGALI 1758

1. AT END OF VISIT OF FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER,  
RWANDAN PRESIDENT HABYARIMANA MET WITH GERMAN PRESS ACCOMPANYING  
GENSCHER DELEGATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS, HE MADE  
STRONG STATEMENT SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING  
PROGRAMS FOR RWANDA, IN THE CONTEXT OF FEEDING RWANDA'S POPULATION,  
"HIGHEST PRIORITY IN RWANDA'S FIVE-YEAR PLAN." HABYARIMANA  
SAID THE PROBLEM IS NOT THAT RWANDA HAS FOUR MILLION PEOPLE,  
BUT THAT FOOD PRODUCTION IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO FEED THEM ALL.  
HE THEN ADDED THAT A VARIETY OF FAMILY PLANNING METHODS ARE  
BEING TESTED TO FIND OUT WHICH ONES CORRESPOND TO RWANDA'S  
MEANS AND ITS PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES.  
(NOTE: AMONG METHODS "BEING TESTED," AS HABYARIMANA SAID,  
BY RWANDA ARE THOSE OF PATHFINDER, IN COOPERATION WITH  
MINISTRY OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS, AND WITH USG FUNDING.) A  
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MOBILIZATION AND  
INFORMATION CAMPAIGN HAS BEGUN. "THE CHURCH, WHICH PREACHES  
CHARITY, WOULD NOT BE GLAD TO SEE THE RWANDAN POPULATION  
DIE OF STARVATION," HABYARIMANA SAID.

2. THE FOLLOWING DAY A SEVEN PERSON RWANDAN DELEGATION RETURNED  
FROM MELBOURNE, WHERE THEY HAD ATTENDED THE CATHOLIC CHURCH-

SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON NATURAL METHODS OF BIRTH CONTROL.  
(EMBASSY SPECIAL POPULATION FUNDS HAD PAID AIR FARE OF RWANDAN  
DELEGATION TO AND FROM MELBOURNE.) VINCENT NSENGIYAMVA,  
ARCHBISHOP OF KIGALI, DISCUSSED CONFERENCE WITH RWANDAN PRESS,  
EXPRESSING CONSIDERABLE ENTHUSIASM FOR "BILLINGS METHOD" OF  
BIRTH CONTROL. HE STRESSED THAT BILLINGS METHOD IS APPROVED  
BY CHURCH -- INDEED EVEN PRAISED BY POPE PAUL VI; IT  
IS BASED ON SOLID SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE, NOT DANGEROUS TO  
HEALTH, AND SIMPLE TO LEARN AND PRACTICE. HE  
EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RWANDA WILL BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR  
PUTTING METHOD INTO PRACTICE, ADDING THAT IT IS A QUESTION  
THAT DOES NOT CONCERN THE CHURCH ONLY, BUT IS AN IMPORTANT  
SOCIAL PROBLEM OF INTEREST TO EVERYONE.

3. COMMENT: CLEARLY IT IS NOW ACCEPTABLE -- EVEN BECOMING  
FASHIONABLE -- FOR RWANDAN OPINION LEADERS TO ENDORSE THE  
PRINCIPLE OF LIMITING POPULATIONS GROWTH. EVEN ON YEAR AGO,  
NEITHER PRESIDENT NOR ARCHBISHOP WOULD HAVE MADE  
STATEMENTS LIKE ONES REFERRED TO ABOVE. BILLINGS METHOD  
MAY BE LESS THAN IDEAL FOR LARGE-SCALE APPLICATION IN UNDER-  
DEVELOPED COUNTRY, BUT ITS ACCEPTABILITY TO CHURCH HAS  
OPENED UP POSSIBILITY FOR FIRST TIME OF SERIOUS DISCUSSION  
OF BIRTH CONTROL IN RWANDA. TREND SET IN MOTION SHOULD LEAD  
GRADUALLY TO DESIRE TO EMPLOY MOST EFFECTIVE, SAFE, AND  
INEXPENSIVE METHODS AVAILABLE. RWANDAN GOVERNMENT IS INCREASINGLY  
WILLING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR DISPOSITION TO SUPPORT,  
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DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY, INITIATIVES IN THIS FIELD.  
CRIGLER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 14 mar 1978  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Film Number:** D780119-0531  
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**SAS ID:** 3343206  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POPULATION POLICY NOTES  
**TAGS:** EAID, SPOP, RW  
**To:** STATE  
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